



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE AWARDS PROP 14 CONSTRUCTION GRANTS TO TWO COUNTY LIBRARIES

Julian and Lemon Grove Branches Get Nod for Shared-Use Projects

Following a half day of debate in Sacramento, including two hours of prepared and sometimes emotional testimony from supporters of each of the 32 library projects under consideration for Prop 14. funding, the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board voted yesterday to include two San Diego County Library branch projects among the five projects awarded.

The successful applications were for new libraries in the unincorporated town of Julian and the incorporated city of Lemon Grove.

"When you build a state of the art library in communities like Julian and Lemon Grove, you are building more than the brick and mortar of a library building," said District 2 Supervisor Dianne Jacob. "You are really establishing community centers which quickly become the hub of life-long learning. And even more than community centers, you are building community." Both new libraries are located in District 2.

The County of San Diego submitted the Prop. 14 application for Julian. The \$2.49 million grant will allow the County to build a 9,573-square-foot library, fulfilling the community's dream for a facility shared between the public library and the schools. Currently there are no school libraries in Julian to serve the geographically dispersed population of 6,193.

The 1,270-square-foot quaint schoolhouse that serves as the public library was built in 1888. It is critically lacking in space for seating and reference collections. As a historical landmark it may not be remodeled, so it lacks disabled access and cannot be adequately rewired for modern technology. The Julian High School District donated the two-plus acre site at the end of Main Street, within easy access of 7 schools. The Julian Friends of the Library and the Julian

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Foundation organized community collaboration and raised almost \$150,000 in local matching funds.

According to County Library Director Marilyn Crouch, the County will take advantage of the fact that architectural planning documents for Julian have already been completed as part of the community's planning process and can move forward quickly with the bid process for construction. Ground breaking is planned for the summer of 2003, with a projected open date early in 2004. The Julian project will likely have the distinction of being the first completed Prop. 14 library in the state.

Since it is an incorporated city, Lemon Grove is responsible for funding for a library building. The County Library is the service provider for staffing and operations. The City of Lemon Grove submitted the application for \$3.8 million for an 18,564-square-foot facility, doubling its current size. All Prop. 14 projects require a 35 percent local match of funding for consideration.

The new Lemon Grove Library will be part of a Civic Center complex, replacing a hard to find, 9,000-square-foot leased store-front space at 8073 Broadway. Friends of the Library and the City of Lemon Grove have worked hard to raise the local matching funds, which include more than \$800,000 from the bequest of the late Dan Thren, Lemon Grove real estate agent.

"We are thrilled that the state board confirmed our view of the worthiness of the applications for libraries in these two communities," said Crouch. "We know that by building libraries we are building real value for these communities."

For more information, phone the San Diego County Library at (858) 694-2415.

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